[2nd August 1932

Putting of a wire-knitted screen between prisoners in Vellore Jail and the interviewing persons.

* 16 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the Vellore Central Jail, political prisoners have recently refused to interview their relatives as a protest against the putting of a wire-knitted screen between them and the interviewing persons; and

(*b*) whether such screens have been put in the interview rooms in other jails also and, if so, since when and for what reasons?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no information.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know why the Government did not get the information?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"Because it was thought unnecessary."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"Have they still not got the information?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"If my hon. Friend wants it, I shall get the information."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—"May I know whether wire-knitted screens are put in between prisoners and those interviewing them?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"It is about this that I have said that the Government have no information."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—"The question is whether the prisoners refuse to interview because of the wire-knitted screen, and the Government reply is that they have no information. I want to know whether the practice of wire-knitted screen is being put up when convicts seek interviews?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"The Government have no information on that point either."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know if the purdah system which is dying out is being introduced in the jails?"

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"May I know if Government instructed the Superintendents of Jails to guard these interviews?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"There are standing rules relating to interviews."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"Has there been any occasion to ask the Superintendents to observe them more strictly?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"Notice, Sir."